

Make our family meals relaxed.

- I like to be with you. Let's enjoy eating together. Please turn off the TV.
- I am learning every day! Teach me the names of foods. Talk about their shapes, colors and tastes. I can learn where foods come from.
- I like to eat with our family. I can eat most of our family foods.
- I need to always sit when I eat or drink. Let me sit in my booster seat at the table.
- Give me a small spoon or fork, and a small plate and cup. I may still be a little messy when I eat. I am learning!
- Make sure we wash our hands before and after we eat.



Healthy Snack Recipe:

Whole Wheat English Muffin "Pizza"

- Split English muffins and toast in toaster
- Spread with pizza sauce, top with grated cheese and some veggies
- Microwave until cheese melts

Snacks are important!

Healthy snacks help me grow. Plan my snacks, and don't let me fill up on snacks all day long.

Give me safe foods.

- Give me foods that are bite-sized and soft enough for me to chew easily.
- Don't give me foods that I can choke on: raw hard vegetables, whole grapes, spoonfuls of peanut butter, chips, nuts, popcorn, dried fruits, hot dogs, chunks of meat, and hard candy.
- Cut grapes in half, spread peanut butter thinly, cut hot dogs the long way.



Ask WIC if you have any questions about what I am eating.

I can help!

- Let me help you in the kitchen. I can:
 - rinse fruits and vegetables
 - tear lettuce for salad
 - spread butter or peanut butter on bread
 - name and count foods
 - make faces with pieces of fruits and vegetables
 - talk about cooking
 - put things on the table
 - put things into the trash
- When I help you, I feel good. I will probably eat better too!



Make sure I wash my hands before I help.



Let's play!

I love to play every day. Mark what you would like to try doing with me.

- Dance
- Play follow-the-leader
- Play leap frog
- Play hide-and-seek
- Make believe that we are cooking, exploring the jungle, being animals, etc.



- Take a walk

Playing with me helps me grow smarter, stronger, healthier and happier!

Look what I can do!

- I like to do things for myself. Please say you are proud of me.
- I can run, hop and throw a ball. Let's play catch!
- I like to pretend, like playing store.
- I know lots of words, and I can talk with you. I like to talk. I ask "Why?" a lot.
- I can serve myself at the table. If you hold the bowl, I can take a spoonful of food. Please be patient if I spill.
- I can learn to say "Please" and "Thank you".
- I can pick out a vegetable at the store.

Keep me safe and healthy.

- Always put me in my car seat when we drive.
- Take me to my doctor and dentist.
- Keep things that can hurt me out of my reach.
- Always watch me around water.
- Keep me away from cigarette smoke.
- Help me brush and floss my teeth every day.
- Put sunscreen on me when I play outside.
- Hold my hand when we cross the street.
- No more than 1 or 2 hours a day of TV or computer time!



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I'm 3
Please play with me!

My name is _____ Date _____

I weigh _____ pounds

I am _____ inches tall

One healthy thing our family will do is:

Trust me to eat the right amount.

- You decide what healthy foods to offer me. I decide which of these foods to eat, and how much to eat.
- I like to make some choices. You know what foods I need to be healthy. Let me choose between healthy foods.
- My stomach is still little. Start with small servings of each food. Let me ask for more.
- Let me decide when I have had enough. Don't force me to eat or make me "clean my plate".
- Don't worry if I don't eat a meal or a snack. I will eat more on some days than others. Don't beg me to eat or fix other foods for me.
- Serve me foods that I like along with a new food. You may need to offer me the new food 10 times before I will try it. This is normal. I am learning about foods.
- I change my mind a lot. I may like a food one day and not the next. I will learn to like most foods.



Good food for three year olds — offer me every day:

Grains



4 of these choices:

- 1 slice bread or tortilla
- 1 cup dry cereal
- ½ cup cooked noodles, rice, oatmeal
- 6 small crackers

Half the grains I eat should be whole grains!

Protein



3 or 4 of these choices:

- 2 tablespoons chopped meat, chicken, turkey, fish
- 1 egg
- 4 tablespoons cooked, mashed beans
- 1 tablespoon peanut butter
- 4 tablespoons tofu

Meat and beans give me the most iron to keep my blood strong!

Vegetables



3 of these choices:

- ½ cup cooked chopped vegetables
- 1 cup raw (not hard) vegetables
- 4 ounces vegetable juice

Offer me a dark green or orange vegetable every day!

Dairy



4 of these choices:

- 4 ounces milk
- 4 ounces yogurt
- 1 slice cheese

WIC gives me low-fat milk.

Fats, oils & sweets

only a little bit

Fruits



2 or 3 of these choices:

- ½ cup fresh, canned or frozen fruit
- 4 ounces 100% fruit juice (no more!)

Offer me a vitamin C fruit every day (oranges, strawberries, melons, mangos, papayas, WIC juices).



Start with small amounts and let me ask for more.

Sample menus for me

Offer me 3 meals and 2 or 3 snacks every day. I like to eat around the same times every day.

Here is a sample menu to give you ideas. **Fill in the blanks to make a healthy menu that is good for me.** Pick foods from all of the food groups to help me grow and be strong.



	Sample menu—offer me:	My menu—offer me:
Breakfast	oatmeal cooked with diced apple and cinnamon, ½ cup peach, sliced, ½ milk, 4 ounces	
Snack	whole wheat English muffin “pizza” (½ English muffin, 2 tablespoons tomato sauce, 1 tablespoon cheese) cooked mixed veggies, ½ cup water, a few ounces	
Lunch	egg burrito (1 scrambled egg, 1 small whole wheat tortilla, ½ slice cheese) cooked corn, ½ cup milk, 4 ounces	
Snack	dry cereal, 1 cup yogurt, 4 ounces grapes, sliced, about 4 water, a few ounces	
Dinner	spaghetti with ground turkey sauce (2 tablespoons turkey, ½ cup cooked noodles) green salad, 1 cup orange, sliced, ½ milk, 4 ounces	
Snack	small whole grain crackers, 6, spread with 1 tablespoon peanut butter juice, 4 ounces	